

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are presently active. Applicants have submitted corrected drawings to correct clerical oversight in failing to label FIGS. 1-2 as prior art.

Request for Summary

The Office Action requested Applicant to add a "Summary of the Invention" description to the application. However, Applicant would like to kindly point out that both the M.P.E.P. and 37 C.F.R. §1.73 do not *require* the presence of a "Summary of the Invention" in a patent application. They merely indicate where in the application the "Summary of the Invention" should be placed if Applicant were to elect to include one.

In particular, 37 C.F.R. §1.73 only states that "[a] brief summary of the invention ... should preclude the detail description." 37 CFR § 1.73 does not state "must" or "shall." Accordingly, Applicant has elected not to include a "Summary of the Invention" as this is within the discretion of Applicants.

35. U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under §103(a) as being obvious over Cuomo (U.S. Patent No. 6012092) in view of Goodhand (U.S. Patent No. 5923848) and Milewski (U.S. Patent No. 5930471).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections. Generally, claimed embodiments address the problem of identifying when a distribution list has an erroneous addressee in the list, and removal of the erroneous addressee. This problem is not addressed by Cuomo, Goodhand or Milewski, whether they are considered individually or in combination as suggested. The following overview may clarify what is claimed.

In claim 1, the recited document distribution server, when it receives a document to distribute, and the distribution list to which to send it, associates an identifier with the list and distributes copies of the document to each list member.

Conventionally in the prior art, if a list member is invalid, the original sender of the document receives an error message to that effect, but the error only indicates the invalid list member. Since a distribution list is expanded for sending to each individual list member, the error is therefore received only with respect to that invalid list member; knowledge of which distribution list generated the error is lost.

To address this problem, in claim 1, an identifier is associated with the list where this identifier is required to be received within an error message sent responsive to an error with the list recipient. Unlike in a conventional data distribution environment, the identifier may be looked up to allow identifying the distribution list having the error so the invalid list member identified in the error may be removed.

This functionality, while claimed in claim 1, is not taught or suggested by the cited portions of Cuomo, Goodhand or Milewski relied on by the Action.

Cuomo teaches a "proximity-based dissemination" (col. 4:5-12) of information, where bandwidth is presumed saved by partitioning users into data management partitions (Summary). Such partitioning does not teach the recited correcting of lists having non-existent members. Although the Action cites Cuomo at col. 5, lines 5-18 as teaching reducing bandwidth with respect to nonexistent members of a distribution list, Applicant respectfully states this interpretation of Cuomo is incorrect. The cited portion of Cuomo instead concerns distributing data "to the particular users who desire to receive" data (col. 5 lines 13-14). Users desiring data cannot not teach or suggest the

recited handling of non-existent recipients since such users desiring data must exist in order to be able to desire the data.

Further, Cuomo is cited at col. 4 lines 5-12 as teaching the recited recording in a database *for the document*, Applicant respectfully states this interpretation of Cuomo is incorrect. The proximity data distribution service of Cuomo is recording the network addresses and locations for users, and is not recording an identifier for a document being distributed to list recipients as is claimed.

Regarding the cited portion of Milewski at col. 11 lines 17-34, Applicant notes that as claimed, the received error message must comprise the identifier. This is not was is taught by Milewski since the cited code simply indicates returning an error of "invalid recipient." Thus, the Milewski system exhibits the very problem addressed by the invention, e.g., receiving an error message that fails to allow identifying a distribution list having the erroneous recipient.

Regarding Goodhand, applicant respectfully notes the cited portions of Goodhand fail to teach an identifier associating a document with a distribution list as is claimed. For example, the MAPI address book at col. 13, lines 40-54 identified by the Action concerns allowing a user to manually edit or delete an address book entry, and does not concern the recited editing of distribution lists based on the claimed identifier.

CONCLUSION

Independent claims 8, 11, and 17 each contain limitations corresponding to claim 1 regarding associating an identifier to allow identifying a distribution list having an invalid list member.

Neither Cuomo, Goodhand nor Milewski, whether considered individually or in combination as suggested by the Action, teaches or suggests claimed embodiments.

Based on the foregoing, it is submitted that that all active claims are presently in condition for allowance, and their passage to issuance is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned by telephone to discuss the references and Applicant's response to the Action in order to further the examination of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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